

GETTING OLDER IS NOT ALL BAD NEWS

Good news for all our members who have reached the milestone of 75 years of age. At a recent Executive Council Meeting it was agreed that all members of the above age and over, should be exempt from subscriptions. However, we would ask that if you are in this exclusive group, will you please return your signed Affirmation Form, to confirm that you remain in sympathy with the Doctrinal Statement of FEM, and that you wish to remain in membership? If you were ordained by FEM this is a requirement for your Accreditation to remain in force. Of course if you love FEM so much that you feel you still want to pay your subscription, despite the amazing offer above, your gift will be gratefully received by our Treasurer, Rev Terry Martin.



Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries
Annual General Meeting 2014

Hunslet Nazarene Church
Lupton Street, Hunslet, Leeds, LS10 2QR

10 May 2014

AGM: 1:00 - 2.30 pm

Refreshments provided

Report and Celebration Meeting: 4:00 pm

All members of the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries are invited to the AGM. Why not bring a friend so that they can be introduced to the work and ministry of FEM!



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Sounding the Trumpet

Spring 2014



**Final
printed
Edition**

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This is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe please contact the address below or go to www.femonline.co.uk for a form.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

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money for a nice suit, and for ladies a lovely frock and hat. For the bride and groom clothes are dear too!

At the wedding supper of the Lamb, the wedding garments are doubly expensive. What do I mean by this ? They cost a lot! Firstly Jesus was the ransom paid on the cross for us. Secondly, our soulish/selfish lives have to be laid down, and we must live for Him. This man had failed to recognise this. Maybe he thought, 'Hang on, I'm a good person, I even go to church, tithe, attend Bible study, I've helped a lot of people, I'm a good person!' Not realising that his self-righteous acts were as filthy rags compared to the holiness of God. Well short of God's accepted standard. This man had not bought the correct attire, but he could have bought it, for he was bidden. But as I've just explained, buying things means there's a cost involved.

Matthew 22:12; 'And He saith unto him, friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.' The man was speechless. What could he say? If we know Jesus we are clothed ready. It doesn't matter what natural clothes we wear. It is nice to be smart, especially on the Lord's day, but God looks on the heart. So it doesn't really matter whether we have the finest suits and ladies the finest frocks, or even a camel hair coat. God is interested not in the outward appearance, but in a person's heart.

The man in the parable reading was invited but not welcome; bidden but an outsider. He was cast out. Where? If a person isn't clothed correctly they're not welcome at the supper and judgment and so Hell awaits. Matthew 22:13-14, 'Then said the King to the servants. Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called but few are chosen.' He thought he was ok. He thought he was in the right place. He was with the other guests, yet didn't know he was incorrectly dressed. But Jesus knew straight away. Please let us remember that we need to be fit and ready with the correct attire. Fit with a wedding garment. Trust and believe on the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Richard Hardy

Accordingly two points:-

Doctrine 1, -That the testimonies of God, when duly considered and thoroughly understood will indeed be found to be wonderful.

Doctrine 2, -The wonderful excellency of the Word should beget in our hearts a readiness and diligent care to keep it.

What effect do you believe that the Word of God should have upon the people who hear you preach, should it, when it is being read, sound wonderful, or are the preachers "words" what make it live?

Thomas Merton (Compiled by Colin Ryan).



Fit me Ready!

Matthew 22:11, 'And when the King came in to see His guests He saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment.'

When the King comes, He will be with His saints, enjoying the wedding supper of the Lamb. As He goes to greet His guests, He will be looking at what we are clothed in. The

very first thing that Jesus notices as He walks in, is the man incorrectly dressed. He is without a wedding garment. This man may have looked quite respectable. Who knows, maybe he even had on his Sunday best! He was no doubt mingling in with the other guests. He may have had the smartest suit, tie, shoes all polished and having a real look of respectability about him. But he was clothed incorrectly, he had on the wrong attire. Something was different between him and the other guests, and Jesus saw it straight away. Clean, smart and tidy he may have been in his own eyes, but he lacked a wedding garment. Not a worldly wedding garment but a heavenly wedding garment.

This man's clothes had never been changed. He'd been invited, bidden even, but just didn't bother to get changed. He didn't really see the need, couldn't be bothered. 'I'm clean respectable, I'm ok!' This self righteousness had kept him from getting dressed in the required clothing. Wedding garments are very expensive, aren't they? In the world they are. You would probably pay a lot of



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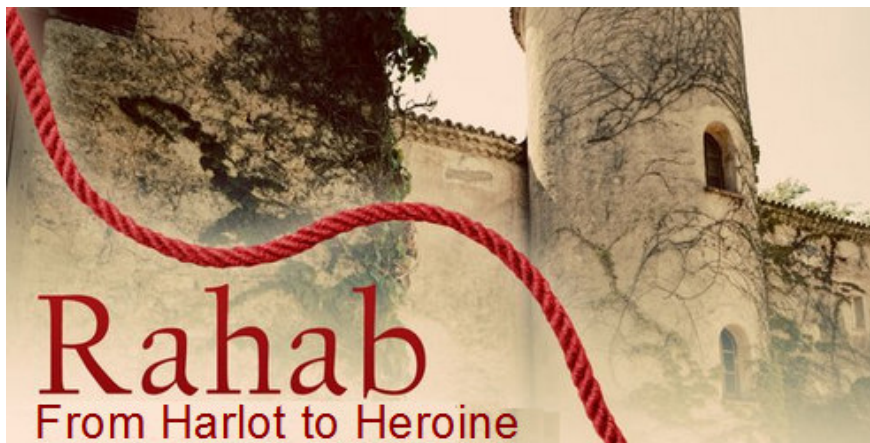
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Text: Joshua 2

Rahab appears to be one of the most unlikely of candidates for salvation in the entirety of the word of God. What we have to acknowledge is that salvation is not gauged upon what a person used to be or what they have done. Instead it is based upon the free gift of God's grace which is received by faith in what He has promised. Therefore, though Rahab was a prostitute, probably one of the most debauched citizens of a doomed people, she was saved from destruction by the will and grace of God alone.

Rahab knew that she deserved to perish along with everyone else in Jericho. We do not find her pleading that she was really a good person that found herself in unfortunate circumstances. She merited God's judgement, full stop. Some believe that those who are destined to be saved, will be saved, and those preordained to go to Hell will end up there. But the fact is, we all deserved to go to Hell. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). This in turn means that only sinners can be saved. Rahab understood her sinfulness and the wrath she deserved, yet she was also convinced that the God of Israel was the true God. "And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (Joshua 2:11).

saved." The result of the ministry of Jesus, in his life and especially his death on the Cross at Calvary, is clear in Philippians 2:9-11, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in In heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Jesus called Peter in a personal way and Peter answered Him in a polite and daring manner, which was personal, precious and positive. Faith to be effective must be positive and daring and at times our faith needs to be visible and vocal. Never ever be ashamed of your God-given faith, it cost too much to be wasted in silence.

So it was that Peter left the fish and the nets. He embraced faith and love in Jesus Christ and he got saved. In a sense Peter lost his sins which were many, his DNA guaranteed it and Romans 3:23 confirms the fact, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

He left the flashing colours of Galilean carp and was thrilled with the dramatic silver colours and realities of Eternal Salvation. He had been lost in sin among the fish and now he found faith and total forgiveness in Jesus Christ of Nazareth – the Son of God from Heaven and the Messiah of prophecy, "which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come to you. Being born again, not with corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1Peter 1:23.

May this short devotional be a real encouragement and blessing to all our precious friends and readers.

Frank Rowley

Psalms 119:129; "Thy Testimonies are wonderful; therefore doth my soul keep them."

In these words are two parts-

- 1) The dignity and excellency of God's testimonies, "Thy testimonies are wonderful."
- 2) The effect it had upon David's heart, "Therefore doth my soul keep them."

us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." He knew all the ingredients of the healthy diet of the Hebrew people recorded in Numbers 11:5. "We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic." Peter had also been intrigued with the account of the big fish recorded in Jonah 1:17. "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." And its dramatic ending in Jonah 2:10, "And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." The creator of all things remains today the controller of all things. Best to always trust and obey His Word at all times and in all the situations of life. "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:7-8.

It is not chance or so-called luck that we read, "And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him." Matthew 4:18-20. The adorable Godhead had planned this walk on the Galilean shore it was elected to be so in the foreknowledge of God the Father through the sanctification of the Spirit. This meeting of Jesus and Peter was just a link in heavens love and he was brought into "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:4. This is a so great salvation and it will get better, for the sandy beach we now tread will give way to streets of solid gold. Heaven is better. So, dear reader, reach for the sky and beyond.

Jesus Himself is the solid foundation of our faith. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11. We have confirmation in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be

Notice that she did not ask for protection for herself, but for others of her family. "Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death" (Joshua 2:12-13). She asked for a token that God's promise would hold true for them. She received the sign of her own salvation too.

A scarlet thread in the window. So simple, even a child could do it. What is complicated about faith? It is religion, legalism and tradition that makes it too hard for us to truly have it. This red cord reminds us of the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of the Israelite homes in Egypt. Again, what a simple way to express faith! The Cross of Jesus Christ is no less simple. Trusting in the finished work of Jesus on Calvary is all that is required for both salvation and sanctification. "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30). Faith in His precious blood secures our eternal salvation, and just as with Rahab, it has nothing with what we were or what we could do. Simply by faith. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Rahab did exactly what she was instructed to do. "Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him" (Joshua 2:18-19). This is what James 2:25 is referring to. "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?" A proper faith that produced proper works, that is, there was visible evidence of her faith; in other words, dynamic faith. Before she tied the red cord to the window, she was lost. As soon as she tied it there, she was saved. She

did not think up this plan to save herself. Who would think up such a foolish way to redeem the lost anyway! The details were given to her, she simply needed to act in faith. The cross of Calvary is just as foolish to those who do not accept salvation through Christ. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



Rahab's faith in the promise moved her from predestination to death to predestination to life. It is worthy of our notice that she had to trust in the word of another rather than her own ability. That scarlet thread was her salvation. The only assurance she had was her faith in that length of cord, yet in it was her deliverance when the wrath of God fell upon Jericho. That outward sign gave her inward peace. That is exactly what the blood of Christ does for all who believe in the finished work on the Cross. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). What do we have to boast about? Our glory is in the cross of Christ because we believe Him when He cried, "It is Finished!" (John 19:30). Like Rahab we are all unworthy of the grace of God, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). There is nothing left but to trust in God's promise of salvation through Christ. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24). Here is the New Covenant that the Father and the Holy Spirit made with Jesus in eternity past. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4).

Rahab, the harlot, who was destined to perish along with the Canaanites, became a child of God through simple faith. She married Salmon of the tribe of Judah and thus became one of the

ancestors of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5). She is mentioned as a hero of faith in Hebrews 11:31, "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace." See what faith can do in a person's life! Look at what God can do with someone who truly believes! The power of the gospel of Christ radically transforms lives. No wonder the apostle Paul wrote, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). Nothing else saves and sanctifies, therefore we ought to keep our faith in what God chose to save us with. For Rahab it was the scarlet thread, but for us it is the precious Blood of Christ on Calvary's Cross.

Gary J. Hall

The Good Got Better

"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brethren Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he said unto them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:18-19)



Come with me, bring your bible and your sanctified imagination, let's go down to the sandy shore of Galilee. Keep clear of the ropes and nets, and beware of fish flopping about!

The painting is a Serrasalmus Piranha and you will no doubt ask what a tropical piranha fish to do with Peter the apostle of Jesus Christ. Well the truth is, when a piranha is about, all the other fish know it is there. When Peter was around every person knew he was there. He was recognised for his experience in the Lord. He was good to be with. Jesus talked to Peter more than the rest of the disciples. Why?

Peter was good at catching large fish and he was good at writing short letters. He could handle fish and was very skilful with the nets and lines. He could retain his balance when the ship was pitching and tossing in the waves during fierce storms. Peter would be aware of the truth in Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let